

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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AMCONSUL MILAN

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FOR: STATE CU/WE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IT

SUBJECT: PROPOSED GROUP TRAVEL TO US OF YOUNG ITALIAN SOCIALIST  
LEADERS

1. PREPARED NOMINATE GROUP OF 10-15 LEADING YOUNG NORTHERN  
ITALIAN SOCIALIST LEADERS, FOR TWO-WEEK MID-MAY INTENSIVE  
US VISIT, ON RECEIPT IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL. VIEW LENGTH OF  
PROCESS HERE, NAME CHECKS ETC., REQUEST EARLY RESPONSE.  
BELIEVE PROJECT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING AND  
RESPECT FOR AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AMONG YOUNG  
SOCIALISTS IN NORTH, WHO ARE INCLINED TO BE NEGATIVELY  
DISPOSED TO US IDEOLOGICALLY, WHILE AT SAME TIME MOST  
RECEPTIVE TO POLITICAL-SOCIAL SOLUTIONS GENERATED BY OUR  
SYSTEM.

2. PROJECT HAS ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT OF MILAN PROVINCIAL  
PSI, WHOSE LEADER LUIGI VERTEMATI CURRENTLY IN US ON IV  
GRANT. PARTY HAD PLEDGED FUNDS TO COVER SOME US  
EXPENSES (UP TO \$250 PER PERSON), PERMITTING REDUCED PER  
DIEM.

3. MAURIZIO RICOTTI, YOUNG SOCIALIST LEADER, IS COORDI-  
NATING PROJECT IN VERTEMATI(S ABSENCE. RICOTTI HAD US  
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EXPERIENCE AS STUDENT WITH AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE AND

BEEN ELECTED SEVERAL TIMES NATIONAL AFS PRESIDENT. RICOTTI NOTES EXPOSURE TO US GRASS ROOTS POLITICS, MODES OF DEALING WITH SOCIAL AND URBAN PROBLEMS, INSIGHTS INTO HIGHER EDUCATION AND US LABOR SITUATION ALL OF VITAL INTEREST TO YOUNG PSI LEADERS.

4. PARTICIPANTS WILL RANGE IN AGE FROM 23-30 AND FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES: A) OUTSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING TWO SMALL-TOWN MAYORS; B) TRADE UNION OFFICIALS; C) YOUNG PROFESSORS AND UNIVERSITY ASSISTANTS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ORGANIZE 14 DAY PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON AND TWO OTHER MAJOR US CITIES, WITH CONCLUDING WEEKEND IN NEW YORK. FOR WASHINGTON, SUGGEST TWO-DAY INTENSIVE SEMINAR ON AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. TENTATIVELY SUGGEST ETA WASHINGTON MAY 16 WITH RETURN MILAN SCHEDULED MAY 31. WILL NEED TRANSLATION FACILITIES THROUGHTOUT.

6. URGE VISIT OPEN WITH TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, AT MERIDIAN HOUSE, BROOKINGS, OR SAIS. RECOMMEND SESSIONS BE ORIENTED TOWARD WORKING POLITICIANS AND AWAY FROM ACADEMIC ABSTRACTION, WITH MAIN EMPHASIS ON DYNAMICS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICS. SINCE GROUP IS SOCIALIST AND HENCE IDEOLOGICALLY INCLINED, SUGGEST STRESS POLITICAL IDEALS AND VALUES. SUGGEST SEMINAR BE ILLUSTRATED BY VISITS TO CAPITOL HILL FOR APPOINTMENT WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD OR OTHER LEADING CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES, AND TO SUPREME COURT FOR CONVERSATION WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.

7. AFTER WASHINGTON, GROUP SHOULD SPEND 3 TO 5 DAYS IN EACH OF TWO MAJOR EAST COAST URBAN AREAS. SUGGEST BOSTON AND ATLANTA, BUT OTHER POSSIBILITIES MIGHT INCLUDE RICHMOND, BALTIMORE, PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON, ROUGHLY SIZE OF MILAN. CONCLUDING WEEKEND IN NEW YORK.

8. ALTERNATIVELY, FOR CONTRAST, SECOND CITY MIGHT BE MILWAUKEE, MINNEAPOLIS OR CHICAGO IF EXPENSE NOT PROHIBITIVE.

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9. WHILE IN EACH CITY, GROUP WOULD HAVE PRIMARY INTEREST IN GRASS ROOTS POLITICS, CITY ADMINISTRATION, WAYS IN WHICH MAJOR URBAN CONCERNS ARE DEALT WITH, EXPECIALLY IN AREA OF SOCIAL SERVICES; VISITS TO MAJOR UNIVERSITIES AND CONTACT WITH YOUNG LABOR LEADERS. IF POSSIBLE GROUP WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE A PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY AT LOCAL LEVEL. IDEALLY, GROUP MAY BE OCCASSIONALLY DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS FOR FOCUS ON SPECIAL INTERESTS.

10. HUMAN CONTACTS MIGHT BE ENHANCED, AND EXPENSES REDUCED, IF GROUP HOSTED BY LOCAL SPONSOR DURING AT LEAST ONE 3-5 DAY STOPOVER.

11. BESIDES INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL (TWA HAS OFFERED PRICE OF \$550 PER PERSON FOR MINIMUM STAY OF 14 DAYS) REQUEST PROVIDE INTERNAL TRAVEL, TWO ESCORT-INTERPRETERS, AND ARRANGE PROGRAM, WITH HOME HOSPITALITY. INDIVIDUALS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR OWN HOTEL AND MEAL EXPENSES, AND THERE- FOR REQUEST \$25 PER DIEM. ESTIMATE COST TOTAL PROJECT FOR TEN FROM \$11,000, AND UPWARDS DEPENDING ON PRECISE NUMBER OF PARICIPANTS AND ITINERARY.

12. CONGEN MILAN BELIEVES IT OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO STRESS VITALITY OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS TO THIS GROUP TO COMBAT CURRENT AUTHORITARIAN TEMPTATIONS.VOLPE

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